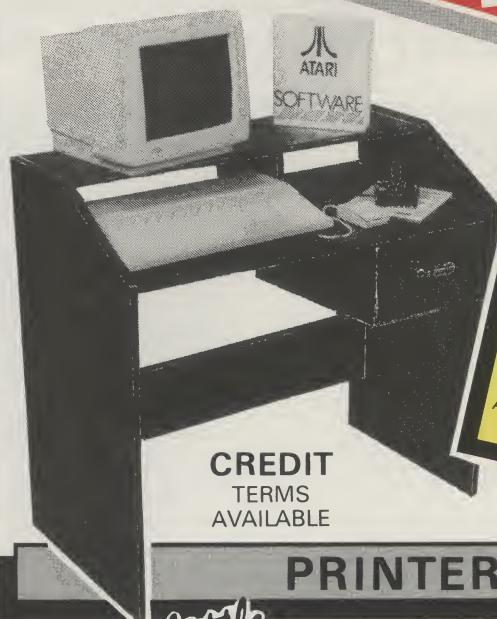


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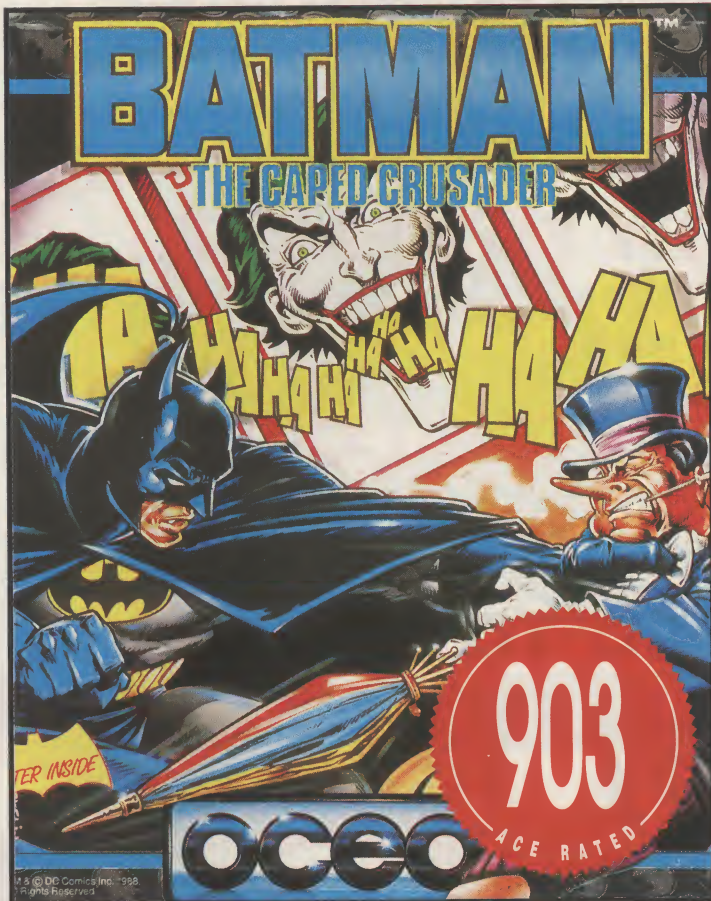
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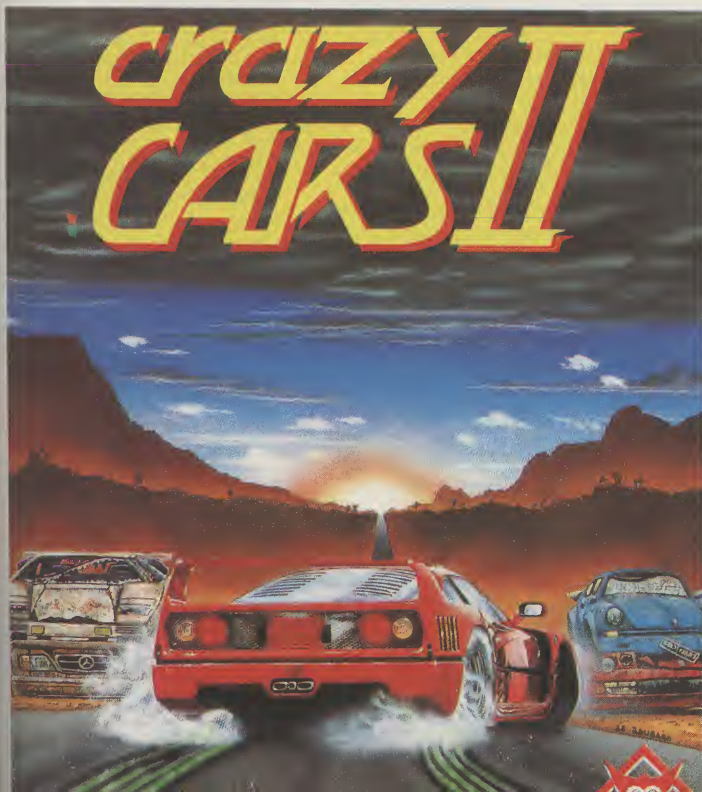
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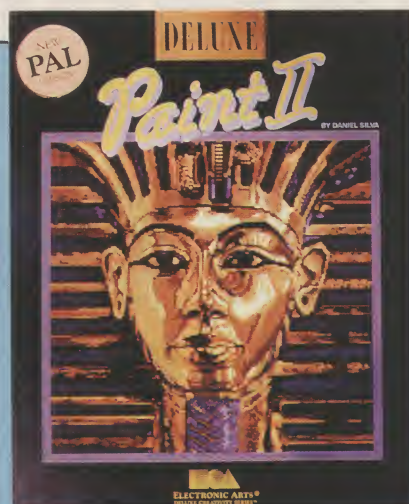
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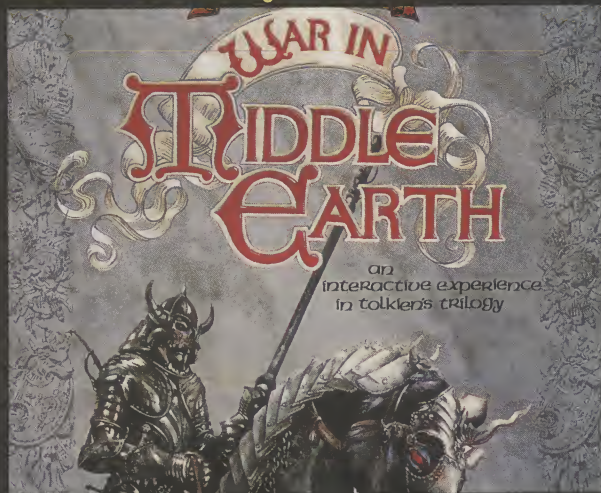
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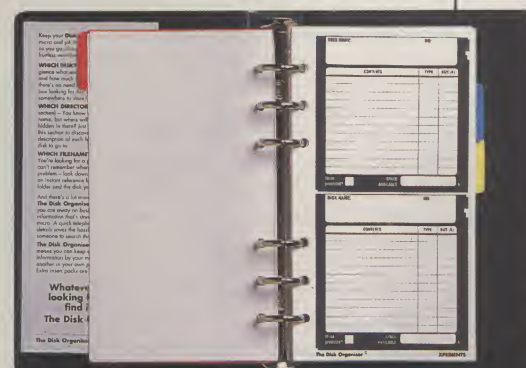
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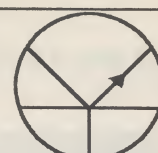
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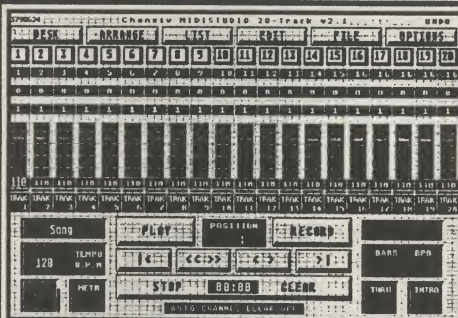


Image Scanner

The Image Scanner is a peripheral for the ST which can provide high quality graphics digitising for a tenth of the cost of other digitisers.

This simple unit plugs into the cartridge port of the ST and accepts scanned information via optical cables which fix easily to the head of any printer. Scanned images can be saved in raw data, Degas and Neochrome formats. The Software supports scanning resolutions of 75,150,216,300,360 and 1000 dots per inch horizontally. There is an example disk available which contains a slide show of images scanned with this product. The cost of this disk is £3.99, £2.00 of which is redeemable on purchase of a scanner.

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Midistudio £99.99

Midistudio is a 20 track Midi Music Studio. This Midi software package is a realistically priced introduction to Midi music processing and includes the following features.

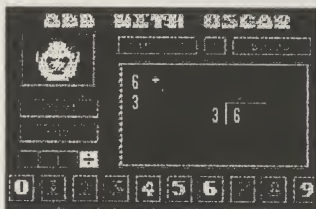
20 tracks each assignable one of 16 midi channels, each track can be transposed up or down 2 octaves, the main screen features full tape deck controls with individual volume sliders for each track, note editing facilities including editing of pitch, octave, duration and velocity, plus full midi controller editing (pitch bend, mod wheel. etc.).

Full control over phrases is offered through Quantizing, transposing, and phrase arrangement software pages. The arrangement facilities allow moving and copying phrases on any of the 20 tracks. The package is easy to use and is a strong competitor with Pro 24.

"Out performs Pro-24 v2.1 in almost every way"
Atari ST User Jan 89

Add With Oscar £12.99

Add with Oscar is a fully mouse controlled educational game with full colour screens and sound for teaching addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to children. This program has selectable difficulty levels and a Hi-Score table.



EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

Spell With Oscar £12.99

Spell with Oscar is a game which teaches spelling, keyboard skills and motor coordination. Pictures of objects move smoothly across the screen and the pupil should spell the name of the object while Oscar checks for mistakes. Spell also incorporates selectable difficulty levels and a Hi-score table. Extra data disks £5.99

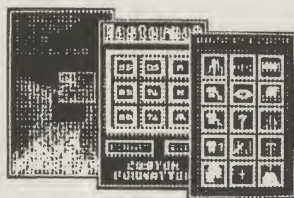


Quick List Plus is a utility that compiles a directory of your disks. Sort on disk or name, reads any drive, including hard drive. Printer output for hard copy of databases.

Mastermat is a formatter that optimises disk space, allows non standard sector and track formats/ fast read format.

Picstrip is a utility that captures all or part of a picture file for use in Basic programs, supports GFA, FAST, HISOFT and ST Basics and is Degas, Neochrome and AB Animator compatible.

TRILOGY £12.99



AB Animator £14.95

AB Animator is a utility for creating and animating sprites. It supports GFA, HISOFT and FAST basics and is compatible with degas and neochrome picture files. Use the full icon control to animate up to 20 big frames of 56 pixels wide by 33 pixels high.



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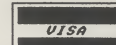
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THE ACE PINKPAGES

Upgrading to a new computer? Perhaps it's a PC you need. Buying a new game? Check the ratings. Bored with life? Check the puzzles. Got something to say? Anything at all? Get writing to The Pink Pages Ed, at ACE's Bath address. We don't care what you've got to say – as long as it's funny. You never know, you might even get a spot prize for your efforts. If you want to be read – get in the Pink!

THE STORY SO FAR...N'Gar Thrombobo is no ordinary sprite. Fed up with being a Centauran Battle-drome in one of little Horace Claghandle's games, he sets about taking his revenge. His plans for world domination begin at Grimleythorpesdale Municipal Sewerage Flocculating Plant. Poor old Horace has gone quite insane, but decides he can save the world by writing a virus which he names MATAHARI (Machine-Accommodated Totally Annihilative and Horribly Active Recursive Intelligence). Meanwhile, N'Gar learns of MATAHARI's existence and sets about saving himself to floppies, just in case. Unfortunately, the last floppy he saves himself to contains something else... MATAHARI! After a terrific struggle N'Gar eventually overcomes MATAHARI, but he's real angry.

NOW, READ ON...

Here you are little Cyril, I've got a present for you to be sure to be sure." Mr. Tord had not long returned from the clearing up operation at Grimleythorpesdale Municipal Sewerage Flocculating Plant, and although Cyril Niceboy's parents didn't object to the little boy's grandfather bringing him presents, they did rather wish he'd at least scrape down his wellingtons before stomping across their £15 per square yard Axminster.

"Oh, grandfather, thatth thuper, how kind you are!" cried little Cyril gleefully, "What ith it?"

"It's a floppy disk for your computer. I found it while we were clearing up today, and thought you might like it." Mr. Tord gave his grandson the disk.

"Oh, grandfather, thatth tho, tho thuper." said little Cyril, jumping up from the table with glee and taking it from his hand, "I'll be able to pwactith my computer pwogwamming after I've finithed my homework."

Cyril's mother patted her son's golden locks. "He's studying to be a doctor this week." she said.

"Yeth," said Cyril, "I'm going to thtudy medithine at univertithy and cure all the thickness in the world."

"Oh I'm sure that's a marvellous thing to be doing, to be sure to be sure." said Mr. Tord, thinking how it would have been if they'd been able to cure thickness when he was a lad.

"Now do make sure your scarf is done up properly, Cyril, we don't want you catching cold now, do we?" said Cyril's mother.

"No mummy. It's ever so kind of you and daddy to let me go to the toyshop."

Cyril's mother blew her nose, and then wiped her eyes. "Oh you're such a sweet little boy," she said, "now hurry along."

"Don't worry dearest, I'll take care of him." said Cyril's father. "Come along now Cyril, help Daddy start the car."

THE ACE SERIAL

The Git In The Machine: Part 6

"Oh Daddy, really, could I..."

Later, in the toyshop...

"All you have to do is tell the Kiddiemate Deluxe what to do via a short program inserted on disk into this slot in the backplate, and it will carry out your instructions to the letter!" beamed the sales lady.

"Really?" said Cyril's father, lifting his glasses to peer at the two-foot high metal and plastic robot, "And it's a genuine aid to learning?"

"Oh most certainly," said the sales lady, "it teaches the youngster all about computer programming in a genuine ongoing play-type situational environment."

"Oh Daddy, it's wonderful!" said Cyril Niceboy, tightly clutching his father's hand, "But are you thure it ithn't too exthpenthive?" His little face puckered in a frown.

"Nothing's too good for our little Cyril." said his father ruffling his golden locks. "Could we have a demonstration?" he said to the sales lady.

"Certainly sir." she said, "Now if I can just find a disk..." she turned to rummage about on the shelves behind the counter.

"I have one here in my thatchel!" called Cyril, taking out the disk Mr. Tord had given him.

"Ah, thank you." said the sales lady. "Now you just insert the disk like so, and program in a short series of instructions. Let's make the Kiddiemate sing a little song and walk up and down the counter, shall we?" The sales lady tapped a series of keys on the back of the robot, then stood back to watch. After a moment, a tinny little voice started singing "Baa baa black sheep".

"Oh Daddy, ithn't that tewwific!" called Cyril. "Can I have a go?" he asked the sales lady.

"Of course!" she said.

"Of course!" said his father.

Cyril reached out his hand. When his fingertips got to within three inches of the casing, an electrical discharge of at least thirty thousand volts shot up his arm, made him jump three feet in the air and fried his golden curls to a crisp.

"Amusing little thing, isn't it?" said the sales lady, not quite sure it was meant to do that.

The Kiddiemate's robotic arm shot out next,

and its mechanical fingers closed around Cyril Niceboy's neck in a vice-like grip and began to shake him vigorously.

"Genuinely educational." said the sales lady, not smiling quite as broadly now.

The Kiddiemate Deluxe finished shaking Cyril Niceboy, and threw him over its shoulder clear into the Pets Department. Then it turned round and grabbed the sales lady by her neck chain, and a whirring circular saw appeared from its torso.

"I think we've seen enourrrggh..." said the sales lady as the chain got pulled tighter. She wrestled with the extending arm holding the circular saw as it advanced towards her jugular.

"Here, perhaps I can do something..." said Cyril Niceboy's father, prodding at a couple of switches on the robot's back. A pair of compasses stabbed him in the hand, and a razor-sharp protractor whizzed past his ear. At the same moment the circular saw got caught up in the sales lady's blouse. Cyril's father grabbed at the robot's legs and pulled it off the counter. It crashed to the floor on its back. Desperately, N'Gar Thrombobo tried to right the Kiddiemate, but the floor was too slippery for its limbs to get a purchase. What's more, he couldn't see properly because of the bits of blouse whizzing round on the saw blade. Then he saw a trouser leg. He grabbed at the material and pulled himself up just as Cyril's father's trousers came down.

"Could somebody please explain what's happening here?" boomed the Assistant Manager, who had in tow a rather blackened and crispy Cyril Niceboy. That left the sales lady with the rather difficult task of explaining to the Assistant Manager why Cyril's father had no trousers on, and Cyril's father with the rather more difficult task of explaining to Cyril what he had done to the sales lady's blouse.

Meanwhile, the rampaging Kiddiemate Deluxe had vanished...

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RECOMMENDED GAMES

ACE!

GAMES YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE

All of the following games are **ACE RATED**, that means they're all red hot masterpieces of computer entertainment. Some of the games were available long before the first issue of ACE came off the presses however, so we never had the chance to review them in the magazine. These games are marked with the **ACE CLASSIC** flash, and rest assured, they're all superb pieces of software and are well deserving of the title.

ARCADE ADVENTURES

These games usually give the player a joystick controlled character with which to explore the huge game area.

AIRBALL

Microdeal ● Atari ST £24.95dk

Multi-coloured three-dimensional arcade adventure that owes something to the *Ultimate* style but is years ahead in terms of graphic detail and presentation. You, as the airball in question, must negotiate corridors and rooms full of various obstacles – all spelling instant death. An outstanding rendition of a popular genre.

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

BATMAN

Ocean ● C64 £9.95cst ● £14.95dk Spectrum £8.95cs £14.95dk

Two games in one here as you play the part of Batman in two adventures against your arch enemies *The Joker* and *The Penguin*. Terrific graphics capture the flavour of the comic book originals superbly. All we need to do now is wait for *Batman The Movie* to be released.

■ **ACE RATED 903 – SPECTRUM**

DUNGEON MASTER

Mirrorsoft ● Atari ST £24.99dk

A fascinating arcade adventure cum role-playing game that gives you four characters to guide through a series of dungeons on a quest to find the Firestaff. Superb graphics help to create an enthralling game that will keep you playing for a long time to come.

■ **ACE RATED 949 – ATARI ST**

EAGLE'S NEST

Pandora ● Amiga £19.95dk ● Atari ST £19.95dk

This is one of the better *Gauntlet* clones, especially on the 16-bit machines. The military flavour of the arcade adventure adds atmosphere and if you like this particular style of game, you won't be disappointed with *Eagle's Nest*.

■ **ACE RATED 904 – ATARI ST**

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HEAD OVER HEELS

Ocean ● Spectrum £7.95cs ● C64 £8.95cs £12.95dk ● Amstrad £8.95cs £14.95dk ● MSX £8.95cs ● IBM PC £19.95dk

3D exploration reaches its peak with this **huge intricate masterpiece**. You play two characters – **Head and Heels** – as you search for the crowns that will free the galaxy. The puzzles can get **very difficult** indeed, and you'll often have to split Head and Heels up to use their **different capabilities**. The game's 300 locations are wittily drawn, and the animation is excellent throughout. **A real classic.**

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

MAGIC KNIGHT TRILOGY

Mastertronic ● *Knight tyme* ● Spectrum £2.99cs ● Amstrad £2.99cs ● C64 £2.99cs ● *Spellbound* ● Spectrum £2.99cs ● Amstrad £2.99cs ● C64 £2.99cs ● *Stormbringer* ● Spectrum £2.99cs ● Amstrad £2.99cs

This trilogy is a series of **menu-driven** arcade adventures which, as well as all the expected **running** and **jumping**, have a **complex system** of **interaction** between characters. In *Spellbound* you must rescue Gimbal the Wizard from the fearsome Castle of Karn; in *Knight Tyme* you have to find a way back in time after being catapulted into the 25th century, while in *Stormbringer*, the final part, we find that the magic knight has been split in two, one part good, the other evil. You can't kill yourself, so the only solution is to merge the two halves. But how? **Lots of action**, plenty of thought and **good graphics** make **all three winners**.

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

POOL OF RADIANCE

US Gold/SS1t ● C64 £14.99dk

SSI have done a superb job in trying to capture the **AD&D** system on a computer. The result is a game that will not only **appeal** to AD&D fans, but anyone looking for a role-playing game that will **keep them** enthralled and **entertained** for **months** to come.

■ **ACE RATED 921 – C64**

STRATEGY GAMES

The games for megalomaniacs. The games listed in this section will really test your mettle on the battlefield.

BALANCE OF POWER

Mindscape/Mirrorsoft ● Amiga £26.95dk ● Atari ST £26.95dk ● IBM PC £26.95dk ● Mac £26.95dk

Definitive strategy game for **16-biters**. The player takes the role of one of the superpowers, while either the computer or a friend takes the other. Then it's a case of trying to win friends and influence people on a **global scale**. This can be achieved in a number of ways, including supplying arms or financial aid to radical factions in the hope of toppling a government which is not receptive to the great American or Russian dream (depending on which side you're playing). It's complex, involving and it's difficult to play in ten minute sessions. **Absorbing stuff** that gives an **insight** into the **devious** world of **geopolitics**.

■ **ACE RATED 950 – AMIGA**

CARRIER COMMAND

Rainbird ● Atari ST £24.95dk ● Amiga £24.95dk ● Amstrad £14.95cs £19.95dk ● Spectrum £14.95cs £15.95dk

A magnificent strategy game **spiced** with some great **arcade action** – As commander of the aircraft carrier Epsilon, it's your job to stop the invasion of an island archipelago by the rogue aircraft carrier Omega. **State of the art graphics** mix tremendously with **great gameplay** to make an **enthalling** and **entertaining** game.

■ **ACE RATED 927 – ST**

DIPLOMACY

Leisure Genius ● C64 £12.95cs £14.95dk ● PC £24.95dk

The **grand old man** of **nasty negotiation** boardgames makes it onto

home computers and how! The game can handle up to **seven players** and it's an **engrossing** and madly addictive game that's a **must** for **micro megalomaniacs**.

■ **ACE RATED 949 – IBM PC**

FIRE BRIGADE

Panther Gamest ● IBM PCt ● \$70 Australian Mac \$70 Australian

A magnificent **wargame** this for one or two players. Based on the **battle for Kiev** in 1943, there are a number of scenarios and the **variable** difficulty levels allow you to play as complicated a game as you wish. It's **well presented** and a fair old challenge too.

■ **ACE RATED 910 – IBM PC**

JOAN OF ARC

Rainbow Arst ● Atari STt ● £19.99dk IBM PC £24.99dk

Superficially it's like *Defender of the Crown*, but there's **so much more** to it. In fact, just when you thought you'd reached the objective you'll realise it's only **just the beginning**.

■ **ACE RATED 912 – ATARI ST**

REACH FOR THE STARS

Electronic Arts ● PC £24.95dk

This terrific game of **space exploration** and **conquest** may not be the best looking PC game around, but it's certainly one of the most fun. You start the game with a planet around a star and have to **fend off** (and eventually conquer) **attacks** from the **other three players**. It's not easy to get into, but once you do you'll be **well** and truly **hooked**.

■ **ACE RATED 940 – IBM PC**

UMS

Rainbird ● Atari ST £24.95dk ● IBM PC £24.95dk ● Macintosh £34.95dk ● Amiga £24.95dk

Rainbird's *Universal Military Simulator* is designed to simulate a conflict between two forces on a **user-definable terrain** that can be viewed in **three dimensions** from any one of **eight directions**. The program **heralds a new era** in 16-bit computer wargaming. The ST version is available now with the other versions following shortly.

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

VULCAN

CCS ● Spectrum £9.95cs ● Amstrad £9.95cs

An **elegant, simple** and **ingenious** wargame, *Vulcan* covers the Tunisian campaign of 1942-43. A huge **playing area** and air attack phase make the game an improvement over the same author's earlier works *Arnhem* and *Desert Rats*. *Vulcan* is fast, efficient and simple to play, and **no self-respecting** wargamer should be **without it**.

■ **ACE RATED 981 – AMSTRAD**

SIMULATIONS

Games that put you at the controls. Whether you're flying helicopters, or aeroplanes, or steering bobsleighs, simulation games can become very involving.

BATTLEHAWKS

US Gold/Lucasfilm ● IBM PC £19.99dk

Play either an American or Japanese **fighter** or **bomber** pilot in this combat/flight sim based on the major battles of the Pacific Ocean in 1942. It's real knuckle-whitening stuff that gives you a **great sense of** 'being there'. Thrilling and **surprisingly** addictive.

■ **ACE RATED 928 – IBM PC**

BOBSLEIGH

Digital Intergration ● Spectrum £9.95cs ● Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95dk

Bobsleigh is a **thrilling** game with enough **strategy** involved to add

RECOMMENDED GAMES

another dimension to a **highly competent** and addictive simulation. Have you got the stamina to win your way into one of the top three positions by the end of the season? Remember, **sponsors don't back losers**. Unfortunately, though *Bobsleigh* is available for the C64, it's a poor game compared to the Amstrad and Spectrum versions and is therefore not recommended.

■ **ACE RATED 901 - SPECTRUM**

CHUCK YEAGER'S ADVANCED FLIGHT TRAINER

Electronic Arts ● C64 £9.95cs £16.95dk ● PC £24.95dk

Chuck Yeager's flight trainer takes the flight simulator genre a **step further** by including a **training option**. Chuck will guide the novice through such difficult moves as aileron loops and rolls. With **so much** in **one package** it will take **many hours** of instructive **fun** to master all the available options.

■ **ACE RATED 912 - C64**

FALCON

Mirrorsoft ● Apple Mac £34.99dk ● IBM PC £34.99dk

A **magnificent flight sim** that gives you a **dozen missions** at any of five ranks, so there's an **awful lot to get through**. The game's very combat-orientated making it definitely one for fighters rather than just fliers. After a short while of playing it's **easy to see why Falcon** scooped a whole bunch of **awards in America** recently.

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

FLIGHT SIMULATOR 2

Sub-Logic ● Atari ST £49.95dk ● Amiga £49.95dk ● IBM PC £49.95dk

The venerable **godfather of flight simulations**, *Flight Sim II* is the **standard** by which **all others are judged**. Although it spent a zillion weeks on top of the US charts, it's difficult to get hold of in the UK. If you have the technology, this is an **essential purchase**.

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

GUNSHIP

Microprose ● PC £34.95dk

Excellent graphics, involving simulation and a variety of missions make this one of the **better PC games**. Piloting your 'copter around in order to zap various gooks may not be terribly tasteful – but if you can stand the politics you should have a **lot of fun**.

■ **ACE RATED 902 - AMIGA**

INTERCEPTOR

Electronic Arts ● Amiga £24.95dk

F-18 simulation combining **stunning solid 3-D graphics** with atmospheric sound and an **interesting variety of missions**.

■ **ACE RATED 934 - AMIGA**

LEADERBOARD

Access/US Gold ● Spectrum £8.99 ● C64 £9.99cs £14.99dk ● Amstrad £9.99cs £14.99dk ● Atari ST £19.99dk

If you **only buy one golf sim, buy Leaderboard**. It's **head and shoulders** above **everything** else in **playability and realism**, easy to get into, with delightful graphics and **wicked courses**. Once you've mastered the original, try *Tournament Leaderboard* then *World Class Leaderboard* (based on real courses, including St Andrews, **plus the 'Gauntlet Country Club'** – devised to be as difficult as possible).

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

TOMAHAWK

Digital Integration ● Spectrum £9.95cs ● Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95dk ● Atari ST £24.95dk

One of the **all-time great flight sims**, *Tomahawk* also has a **strong combat edge**. Flying a US Army **Apache helicopter** is complex, and the realistic controls make no concession for learners. Choose one of three combat missions and you can fly out to attack ground targets, while keeping a weather eye open for enemy aircraft. Landscape, **buildings and vehicles** are all drawn in **crisp vector graphics**.

■ **ACE CLASSIC**

AMIGA		CAPTAIN BLOOD		DEFENDER OF THE CROWN		THREE STOOGES		XENON		ATARI ST		CAPTAIN BLOOD		GFL CHAMP AMERICAN FOOTBALL		OIDS		XENON	
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BATTLECHESS	49.90	24.96	54.90	24.92	54.94	25.96	44.94	24.96		COLLOSUS CHESS X	49.94	23.98	49.98	21.98	44.98	22.98	44.98	23.98	
CRAZY CARS 2	49.94	22.48	54.94	22.44	54.98	23.48	44.98	22.48		CRAZY CARS 2	44.94	19.98	44.98	17.98	39.98	18.98	39.98	19.98	
DRAGON'S LAIR (1 MEG)	69.90	34.96	74.90	34.92	74.94	35.96	64.94	34.96		DUNGEON MASTER	49.94	22.48	49.98	20.48	44.98	21.48	44.98	22.48	
DUNGEON MASTER (1 MEG)	49.94	23.48	54.94	23.44	54.98	24.48	44.98	23.48		ELITE	49.90	22.46	49.94	20.46	44.94	21.46	44.94	22.46	
ELITE	49.90	22.46	54.90	22.42	54.94	23.46	44.94	22.46		F-16 COMBAT PILOT	49.90	23.96	49.94	21.96	44.94	22.96	44.94	23.96	
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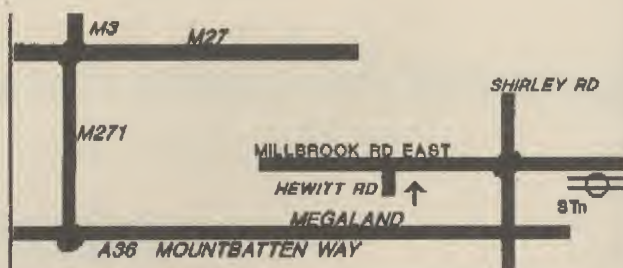
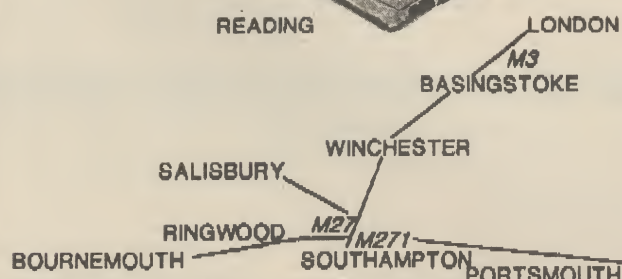
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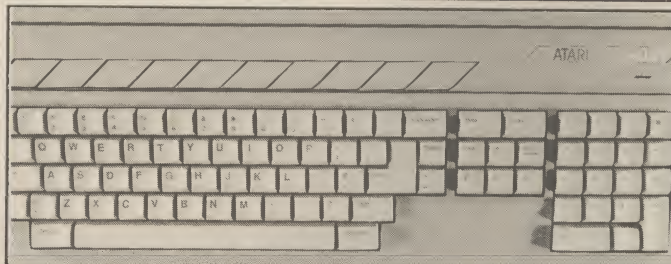
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PCS - WHAT HAVE THE

Erstwhile PC PLUS editor, Matt Nicholson, gives us the low-down on PCs and how they measure up against today's 16-bit machines. If you're thinking of upgrading your system, is a PC a viable option?

Should you buy a PC? The specification of the IBM PC is nothing to write home about, particularly when compared to modern 16-bit machines. Nevertheless, the PC and its compatibles have outsold all the Amigas, STs and Macintoshes put together – by at least a factor of ten. The reason is simple: those three letters, IBM.

IBM is by far the biggest computer manufacturer in the world, and has been since the mid-fifties. To give you an idea of just how big, consider this: between 1960 and 1972 the rest of the industry made a combined loss of over \$1,000 billion; IBM made a pre-tax profit of over \$9,000 billion. The second largest computer company in Japan is IBM's Japanese branch.

This is largely irrelevant to the home user, as by far the greatest part of IBM's business is in mainframe and mini-computers. However, back in the early eighties IBM launched its PC, the Personal Computer, and it was an inevitable success. Big business had been looking for a desktop computer, but felt uneasy buying large quantities from young upstart companies like Apple and Commodore. IBM was a name they knew and could trust. 'Nobody gets fired for buying IBM', as the old adage goes.

Other companies, anxious to jump on the bandwagon, started copying the IBM design and producing micros that could run IBM software. The PC became a standard and now probably over 80 percent of the micros sold in the world today are compatibles.

WORKERS PLAYTIME

The original PC was designed very much with the home environment in

mind – it had a cassette port, could be plugged into a TV, and booted up to a version of the BASIC programming language just like any other home computer. In the States the IBM PC was seen as a home machine from the start, but in the UK it took Alan Sugar to launch the PC1512 at £399 plus VAT, and at last a full feature PC compatible was available in high-street stores from a name everyone knew. The PC design became viable as a home computer in the UK.

There are however a huge number of PC designs around, ranging in price from a couple of hundred to over £10,000. Deciding to buy an IBM compatible is the easy part!

SOFTWARE

The fact that the PC had been considered a home computer in the States for the last eight years meant that there was a considerable base of games software ready for the Amstrad PC1512. Although some of the US titles are a bit dated, at least they are not poor conversions of Spectrum or C64 games. Indeed many are not available on any machine except the PC, or are only just being converted.

Microsoft's *Flight Simulator*, for example, and many titles from Microprose and Electronic Arts are PC-only.

Meanwhile UK companies have started producing PC versions side-by-side with Amiga and ST releases. Many games houses now regard the PC as important a market as the Amiga, although sales tend to be considerably lower than for the ST. Games prices tend to be comparable, too.

But without doubt the PC's strength is in business software. For every word processor or spreadsheet

on the Amiga or ST there are ten or twenty for the PC, many cheaper and more powerful. If you are looking for a games machine the PC is not the best choice, but if you want to mix business with pleasure the PC is a sure-fire winner.

HIGHER SPEEDS

The basic PC used an 8088 processor running at 4.77MHz, and was almost too slow to merit the label '16-bit'. Most clones these days use the faster 8086 processor running at 8MHz which, though not nearly as nippy as an Amiga or ST, is considerably faster than most 8-bit machines with the possible exception of the BBC Model B.

Most clones come with at least 512K of RAM, and 640K is now the norm. It is not worth putting more than 640K of RAM into a basic PC as the MS-DOS operating system – under which most software runs – won't recognise the extra. There are ways round this limit, but these involve special hardware and are beyond the scope of this feature! A basic PC clone, with just a single 5.25-inch 360K floppy disk drive, can be had for around £450 these days.

The IBM AT introduced the faster 80286, a true 16-bit processor running at 8MHz. Most clones nowadays run at least at 10MHz, and even 20MHz is becoming common; resulting in a machine that can feel as fast as an ST or Amiga. Prices are rather higher, with basic monochrome machines coming in at around £1100. A hard disk model with decent colour graphics, such as the new Amstrad PC2286, would cost nearer £1800.

The fastest IBM compatibles use the 32-bit 80386 processor running at anywhere from 16 to 25MHz, and are well capable of matching the competition when it comes to speed. However these machines are pricey: the cheapest would set you back over £3200 for a colour machine with 4 Mbyte of memory and 65 Mbyte hard disk drive.

Although several budget priced PC compatibles have recently been launched, such as the Sinclair P200, Schneider's Euro PC or the Olivetti PC1, it is the faster and more expensive machines that are better when it comes to games. Many flight simulators are only really playable on a 286 with decent graphic display.

GRAPHICS & MONITORS

For a supposedly standard design, the IBM PC is extremely confusing when it comes to the display. This is largely due to the modular nature of the PC, as the electronics that drive the screen

are actually mounted on an expansion card, called a 'Graphics Adaptor' (American spelling), which means that they can be changed at will.

The original PC came either with an extremely clear text-only adaptor, called the Monochrome Display Adaptor (MDA); or with a rather less clear Colour Graphics Adaptor (CGA) that was capable of displaying a number of graphics modes. The colour mode displays four colours at a resolution of 320 by 200 pixels, and it was this mode that was used by most games authors until recently. The CGA adaptor is also capable of displaying monochrome graphics or 16-colour text at a resolution of 640 by 200, this last being the most common mode for business software.

A further limitation of the colour display is that only three combinations of four colours can be used – the most common being a rather bizarre mix of purple, light blue, black and white. Some games, *Elite* for example, thankfully use green, red, yellow and black.

To make up for the low text quality of CGA, Hercules introduced the Hercules Graphics Card (HGC) which could display high quality monochrome graphics and high quality text. It became very popular and is still the standard for monochrome displays, providing a resolution of 720 by 348 pixels. However, although it is compatible with CGA when displaying text, it is totally incompatible when it comes to graphics. Games software written for CGA graphics will not run on a Hercules machine.

IBM eventually produced a decent display with the Enhanced Graphics Adapter (EGA). This offers a respectable 16 colours from a palette of 64 at a resolution of up to 640 by 350 pixels. It is fully compatible with MDA and CGA, but needless to say cannot display graphics written for a Hercules display. It is now the standard for colour graphics on IBM compatibles, and most games now support both CGA and EGA – some, such as adventures from Magnetic Scrolls, only display pictures on the EGA version. The Amstrad PC1512 offers CGA graphics in both its colour and monochrome models, converting colours to shades of grey for the monochrome display. It also offers a 16-colour mode that boasts a similar resolution to EGA – but is totally incompatible. Little software has been written for this mode, although it is supported by the friendly GEM window and mouse interface packaged with the machine.

The Amstrad PC1640 offers either straight CGA or EGA on its



THEY GOT TO OFFER?

colour models – or Hercules on the monochrome version. This generated considerable confusion when it was launched as many assumed that it followed the example of the mono 1512 and were disappointed to find it would not run most games.

In 1987 IBM introduced the VGA display. This can display all EGA modes, plus several others including 16 colours at a resolution of 640 by 480, and 256 colours at a resolution of 320 by 200. The colours for this last mode can be selected from an amazing 262,144, making it capable of displays that from a distance look as clear as a photograph, and are certainly the equal of the Amiga or ST. This mode does, however, require an analogue monitor for display which tends to cost around £150 more than the usual TTL monitor. Other modes can be displayed adequately on an ordinary display.

Most 286 and 386 compatibles offer VGA display. VGA is not yet vital for the purchaser wanting to mix pleasure with business, but is where the future lies.

SOUND

The IBM's sound capabilities are notable by their absence. There is a loudspeaker, but that's about it – the only sound the machine itself supports is a beep.

Programmers have used all sorts of clever techniques for generating more interesting noises, and indeed most games manage the odd zap and ptang as well. *Galactic Conqueror* from Titus actually includes a short burst of

sampled music, but no one ever bought a PC for its musical prowess.

But for those with the money, the PC is worth considering. There are a number of 'intelligent' MIDI interface expansion cards available for around £150 that, with the right software and MIDI instrument, turn the PC into a full MIDI controller – rather more powerful than the Atari in fact, as the ST's built-in MIDI port is only passive.

DRIVES

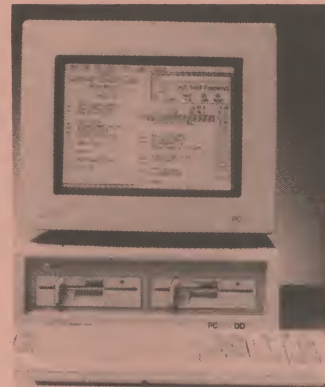
The standard PC uses 5.25-inch floppy disks each storing 360K of data, and most software is issued in that format. The AT design also uses 5.25-inch disks, but crams 1.2 Mbyte onto them. AT compatibles can read 360K disks, but some of the copy protection systems used by games publishers cause problems.

IBM chose to join the rest of the world with its PS/2 range, and fitted 3.5-inch disk drives. These store either 720K or 1.44 Mbyte on a disk, and do seem to be catching on with software publishers. Most software these days is either issued in both 5.25 and 3.5-inch format, or you can exchange the 5.25-inch disk with the publisher for a 3.5-inch version.

You can also add hard disk drives to any IBM compatible, which can store anything from 20 Mbyte upwards and are considerably faster. A 20 Mbyte drive for the PC can be had for around £200.

MICE & JOYSTICKS

Many software packages will take input from a mouse or a joystick. The



Microsoft mouse has become a bit of a standard here, although this is quite expensive. The Amstrad PC1512 and 1640 both come with a mouse, but unfortunately it is not totally compatible with the Microsoft model – it usually works fine, but seems to have problems running with Microsoft software.

The original IBM design also catered for a joystick in that it produced an expansion card that could be plugged into the PC, and which provided sockets for one or two analogue joysticks. The catch is the price: compatible joystick cards cost around £25, while the joysticks cost around £20. Fortunately the two are often bundled together – Konix, for example, do a kit for £30.

The Amstrad PC1512 and 1640 also come with a joystick socket, but this is for a switched Atari-style unit and is completely incompatible with the IBM interface. Most US software supports the IBM interface, while most UK soft-



ware provides an Amstrad option as well. The good news is that the Amstrad joystick is effectively part of the keyboard, so if the software allows you to 'configure the keys' it is frequently possible to substitute joystick movements instead. It has been dropped on the PC2000 range.

ACE MACHINE?

No one in their right mind would buy an IBM clone just to play games – you would need to spend thousands to get a machine anywhere near the spec of an Amiga or ST.

Nevertheless, as a machine for doing serious work, the PC is second to none; and not too bad as a games machine either. If you work from home, or if you frequently bring work home, the PC is an ideal purchase. Buy a PC and you will never end up in a computing backwater, either.

MAIN MACHINES

Make & model	Price inc VAT	RAM	Processor	Disk Drive	Display Adaptor	Software	Comments
Sinclair PC200	£574	512K	8086 8MHz	3.5" 720K	CGA colour	GEM and Basic Four games	Comes with joystick.
Schneider Euro PC	£631	512K	8088 10MHz	3.5" 720K	CGA colour	Microsoft Works	Limited on expansion.
Olivetti PC1	£574	512K	V40 8MHz	3.5" 720K	CGA colour	First Choice package	One expansion slot.
Amstrad PC1640	£804	640K	8086 8MHz	5.25" 360K	EGA colour	GEM and Basic	Three expansion slots.
Amstrad PC2086	£862	640K	8086 8MHz	3.5" 720K	VGA colour	Windows and Basic	Price for single floppy drive.
IBM Model 30	£1491	640K	8086 8MHz	3.5" 720K	Herc mono	–	Price for twin floppy drive.
Amstrad PC2286	£1322	1Mb	80286 12MHz	3.5" 1.44Mb	VGA colour	Windows and Basic	Price for twin floppy drive.
Amstrad PC2386	£3219	4Mb	80386 20MHz	3.5" 1.44Mb	VGA colour	Windows and Basic	Price for 65Mb hard disk drive.
IBM Model 70	£7467	2Mb	80386 25MHz	3.5" 1.44Mb	VGA colour	–	Price with 120Mb hard disk drive.



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AN ACE READER WRITES

I know this letter will probably never get published but I must admit that I'm totally f***ed off with those bull**it Decoder programmes. The highest possible number that will come up on my computer is bloody 204. This happens to be totally useless when my bl**dy number is 02362. How in the f***ing world is that number ment (? -Ed) to come up. I don't want to hear the usual bull**it when you tell people that they have typed the program in incorrectly. Even if that bl**dy number did come up it would be too late because by the time your s**t house magazine reached Australia the closing date would have already expired. I demand that you reply to this letter so that I know that you actually read this cr*p, you stupid pommy bas***ds.

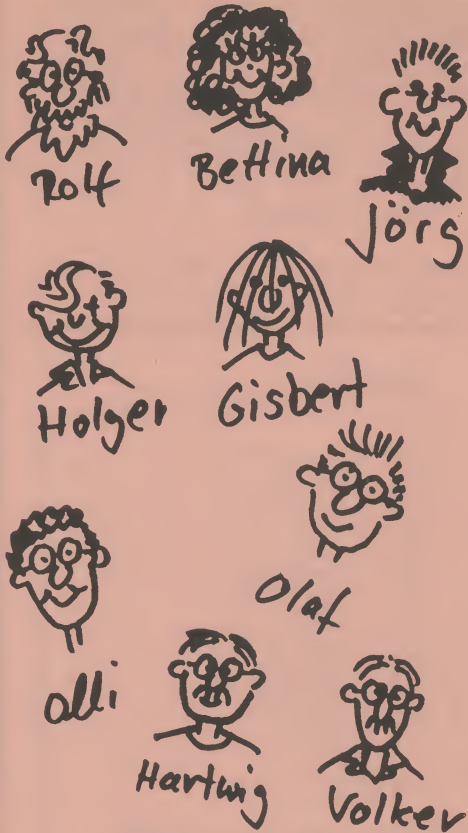
Yours In f***ing hell
J. Brown.

THE PINK PAGES EDITOR REPLIES...

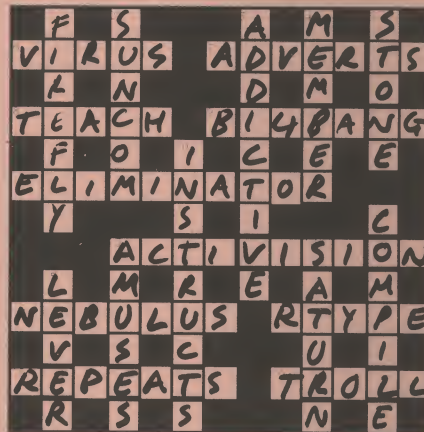
Dear J. Brown

Thanks for your letter. By the way did you know that well over 50,000 ACE readers can type the simple five-line listing in without making a mistake? Amazing isn't it, that you're the only person whose ego won't allow you to realise that you can't manage to do what five-year-olds up and down the UK can do first time!

Of course, all this is besides the point. I mean, why are you moaning about a competition that you can't enter? Don't get me wrong, we love our Australian readers as much as our other readers (much of the stuff we receive from Australian readers is of a very high quality) but the logistics of the thing make it impossible for us to keep a competition open for six months. Sorry, but that's life. Again, thanks for the letter, it was nice to hear from you.



Turn to page 24 to find out just who these mysterious people are (I don't reckon they're half as handsome as the ACE team who were printed last month, do you?).



SOLUTION TO PRIZE CROSSWORD No10

The first correct entry out of the bag was from Douglas Seager of Gloucester, who wins £25 worth of software for his computer. Here's what the completed crossword should have looked like...

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SOLUTION TO THE ACE PUZZLE No10

The first correct entry out of the post bag was from Richard Elton of Stoke-on-Trent who wins £25 worth of software for his computer.

The longest book in terms of the number of pages it contains would be one with 1270 pages. To read it according to the set of rules that were stipulated I would have to read 282 pages on the first day and I would arrive at the last page on the 12th day.

From a given starting number (the number of pages read on the first day) each successive page number can be found by multiplying the digits of the preceding page number and adding on this total. This procedure is then repeated until one of two possible conditions occurs. Either the number of the current product will exceed 300, or a total containing a zero is produced, thus preventing any further increase in the total.

As the sequence of numbers starting at a given value is predetermined, the problem relates to finding the highest total that can be reached from each starting value in the range of 1 to 300. This cannot exceed 300 as this is the maximum number of pages which can be read in any one day (including the first). A variable, MAXPAGE, is used to

denote each maximum total, the value being updated each time a higher-scoring maximum is found. The initial starting value (S) is also stored in variable FIRST to indicate the number of pages read on the first day. After all starting values have been evaluated the contents of these two variables are printed out to determine the answer.

```
LISTING
10 MAXPAGE = 0
20 FOR S=1 TO 300:N=S
30 NS=STR$(N)
40 Z=INSTR(NS,"0"):IF Z<>0 THEN 100
50 GOSUB 1000
60 IF T>300 THEN 100
70 N=N+T:GOTO 30
100 IF N>MAXPAGE THEN
MAXPAGE=N:FIRST=S
110 NEXT S
120 PRINT FIRST;" ";MAXPAGE
130 END
1000 T=1:FOR F=1 TO LEN(NS)
1010 T=T*VAL(MID$(NS,F,1))
1020 NEXT
1030 RETURN
```

NOTE: This listing should run on any machine capable of using MicroSoft BASIC

THE ACE PUZZLE No12

Set by Archie Medes

One year ago Arnold won a jerrycan of whisky as first prize in the village raffle, and for twelve months this bottle has occupied a prominent position on Arnold's sideboard - much to the envy of his many visitors. "I'm keeping it for a special occasion", is the answer he gives to any hopeful enquiries.

However, all is not as it seems, and I can let you into a secret! Every Saturday night for the last 52 weeks, Arnold has secretly poured himself a nip of whisky from this bottle, but to give the impression of still having a full bottle, each time he has mixed in an equal measure of water, thus restoring the bottle to its full volume. In this way Arnold can enjoy his prize without

being obliged to share it around!

Now, each 'nip' that Arnold takes is, by sheer coincidence, EXACTLY one hundredth part of the volume of the entire bottle.

Can you say PRECISELY how many 'nips' of whisky have actually been consumed - that is, down to the exact decimal part of a nip?

A clue - your answer should run to nearly 100 decimal places, so you will have to write it down on a separate piece of paper when you send the answer in.

Instead of trying to work this out with pencil and paper, why not devise a simple listing that will allow your micro to solve it for you?

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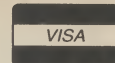
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EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HEDGEHOGS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK...

Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) are wonderful creatures that everyone's familiar with, but did you know...

1. There are approximately 5-7000 spines on an average adult hedgehog.
2. Feeding a hedgehog on bread and milk alone is not a good idea, in fact it can prove to be positively harmful. A healthy hedgehog normally eats mainly beetles, caterpillars and earth-worms.
3. Removing all the fleas from a hedgehog can cause it to suffer withdrawal symptoms.
4. Shakespeare mentions hedgehogs in 'The Tempest' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.
5. The Norwegian for hedgehog is Piggsvin.
6. Hitchin R.F.C are nicknamed 'The Hedgehogs'.
7. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society is a registered charity dedicated to encourage and give advice to the public concerning the care of hedgehogs particularly when injured, sick, treated cruelly, orphaned or in any other danger.
8. There are approximately a dozen species of hedgehog. Five can be found in S.E. Asia, three in Africa and a couple in China. There are no indigenous species in the Americas or Australasia.
9. Fossils suggest that hedgehog-like creatures have existed for some 15,000,000 years.
10. Hedgehog-flavoured crisps do exist but contain absolutely no hedgehog (in fact they taste like chicken flavoured crisps).
11. In ancient times, hedgehogs were a valuable food source. They were first coated in clay and then baked. When the clay was removed, the spines would come off with it.
12. Monty Python's Dinsdale Piranha was constantly harassed by an imaginary giant hedgehog called Spiny Norman.

13. The programmer of Mirrorsoft's 16-bit versions of *Fernandez Must Die* calls himself Spiny Norman.

14. Firebird once produced a budget game with a hedgehog called Spiky Harold as the main character.

15. How do hedgehogs mate? Very carefully! (It's true folks!).

For more information contact:

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society,
Knowbury House, Knowbury,
Ludlow, Shropshire.
SY8 3LQ

GAMES DESIGNED TO MAKE MAGAZINES LATE

Just when the Art Dept and almost every other department within Future Publishing thought it was safe to turn on a Mac without being sorely tempted to boot up *Daleks* (see pink pages issues 12 and 13) comes yet another mindless, simple but extremely addictive game. *Crystal Quest* has been responsible for more lost production over the last couple of months than the hangovers incurred after one of Bob Wade's pizza evening's (that's Bob 'no you can't come' Wade as he's affectionately known here). So, if you ever give us a ring and it takes ages for the receptionist to answer, it could just be because you caught her in the middle of a *Crystal Quest* high score attempt.

COMPETITIONS

We at ACE work hard and play hard and there's nothing we enjoy more than a couple of beers of an evening in the pub next door, The Nuclear Arms. Now the landlord, Larry, is very fond of animals – especially sheep – and he keeps coming out with film titles with a woolly theme, such as *An Officer and A Gentle Lamb*, *Baabarella* and *Who Framed Larry the Lamb*. I know, groans all round, but there you go. If you reckon you can think of a funnier pun send it in. The funniest one we receive by March 5th will win a glorious chromalin of the ACE cover (Xmas special issue) as touched by every member of the ACE team! Send your puns to PINK SHEEP, ACE at the Bath address.

★ ★ ★

Thanks to Danielle of US Gold we've got two fantastic *Dragonlance* books to give away – the collector's editions of *Dragonlance Chronicles* and *Dragonlance Legends*! Wow! So, how ya gonna win 'em? Simple, just guess the combined weight of the two books (answers must be in Grammes please!). To give you a hand, you'll want to know these few facts:

Chronicles is 228mmx151mmx44mm and has 1032 pages.

Legends is 228mmx151mmx40mm and has 998 pages.

Send your answers on a postcard or stuck down envelope to ACE BOOKS, at the Bath address to arrive no later than 5th March 1989.



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30 D=ASC(MID\$(B\$,C,1))

40 IF D>90 THEN D=D-32

50 B=B+90-D:NEXT C:PRINT "Winning Number is";B:NEXT A

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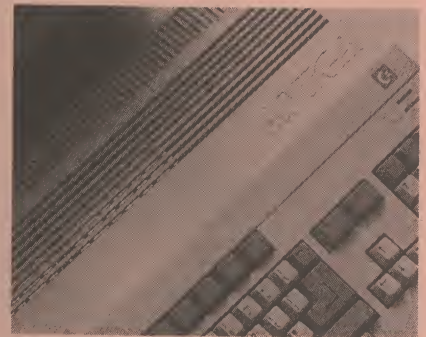
10 FOR A=1 TO 28:INPUT "Code";B\$

20 LET B=0:FOR C=1 TO 4:LET B=B+26

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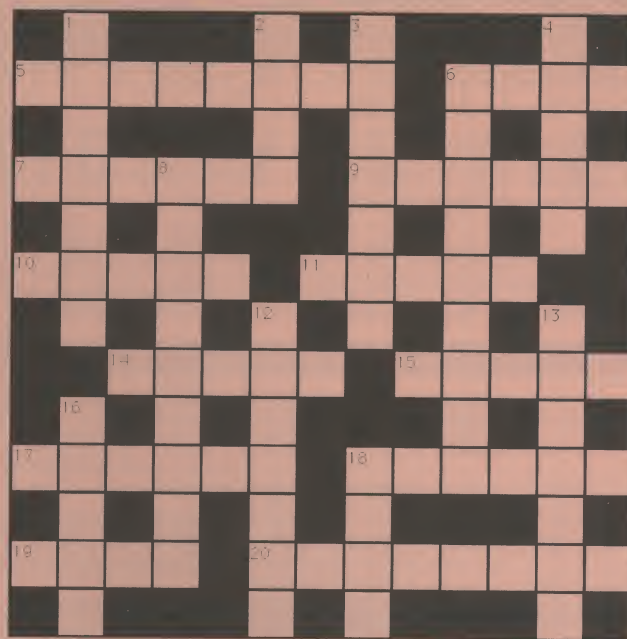
ACROSS

5. Such programs aren't hard! (8)
6. It's not at all good to be back (4)
7. Got pun about game from Ocean (3,3)
9. Politician in Ireland strikes back in follow-up to Star Wars (6)
10. Wagon wheels for TV's Terry! (5)
11. Is able to get on with a field gun (5)
14. Perfect concept - Loriciels' first (5)
15. PC holds poor Ian in uncontrolled fear (5)
17. One getting shot by an airgun (6)

18. Obtain retribution from some scavengers (6)
19. Perhaps Whipsnade's top manager has game from discovery (4)
20. A camp Ian built in game from 8 down (8)

DOWN

1. Ring policeman after you steal Ocean game (7)
2. Profit from Gina's development (4)
3. Old hand from Software Horizons (7)
4. PC seen in comic role (5)
6. Game from 8 down's MI5's business (9)
8. A big hit for the software house (9)
12. Stop pal breaking up computers (7)
13. One travelling to holy place for Infocom game (7)
16. Game backing from nought to ten (5)
18. A non-commissioned officer's software house (4)



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Heroes of Karn, Imagination, Seabase Delta, D.A.A n Everything, Fourth Protocol I, II & III, Ship of Doom, Message from Andromeda, Kobayashi Naru, Questprobe III, Forest at Worlds End, Wild Bunch, Knight Tyme, Spellbound, The Hobbit, Bugsy Part 1 only, Mops To, Heroes of Karn, Seabase Delta, Gremlins, Lord of the Rings (Part II only), Robin of Sherwood, After Shock.
Russell Cooper, 12 Butlers Close, 52 Butlers Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham. B20 2PA.

Let me know your problem with Football director, The Double Soccer Boss, Premier League and Soccer Star and I'll sort you out. Send SAE to: Paul Phillips, 29 Ormestone House, Hartcliffe, Bristol.

Adventure Quest, Aftershock, Apache Gold, Arnold Goes to Somewhere Else, Boggit, Bored of the Rings, Brawn Free, Castle Blackstar, Castle of Skull Lord, Classic Adventure, Colossal Adventure, Colour of Magic, Crystal Theft, Dodgy Geezers, Dracula, Dungeon Adventure, Dungeons, A.A 'n' Everything, Emerald Isle, Enchanter, Erik The Viking, Escape from Khoshima, Espionage Island, Fantasia Diamond, Forest at Worlds Ends, Heavy on the Magick, Heroes of Karn, Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, Hobbit, Imagination, Inca Curse, Jewels of Babylon,

Kentilla, Lords of Time, Message of Andromeda, Mindshadow, Mordon's Quest, Necris Dome, Never Ending Story, Price of Magik, Project Volcano, Qor, Questprobe III, Red Moon, Return to Eden,

THE ACE HELPLINE

Seabase Delta, Seas of Blood, Smugglers Cove, Snowball, Souls of Darkon, Spellbreaker, Spytrek, Subunk, Sydney Affair, Terrormolinos, The Case of the mixed-up Shymer, The Trial of Arnold Blackwood, Vera Cruz Affair, Very Big Cave Adventure, Warlord, Wise and Fool of Blackwood, Worm in Paradise, Zork I

Joan Pancott. Telephone 0305 784155 - Any Day - Noon to 10pm. For technical help on Commodore 64 Basic and Machine/Assembler language. Please contact Johnathan Kendall (for most problems would you please write!) I will endeavour to reply to all letters - if you enclose a stamped addressed envelope!
Johnathan Kendall, 27 Bishop Bridge Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 4ES. Tel: 0603 625987

The Pawn, Sorcerer, Planetfall, Leather Goddess of Phobos,

Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy
Colin Bass, 21 Third Close, E Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9PW.

The Pawn plus early stages for Guild of Thieves (I've only scored 300+ points so far).
Clive, 66 Billett Lane, Berkhamstead, Herts, HP4 1DR.

Jack The Ripper (p1-3), Dracule (p1-3), Hampstead, Big Sneeze and others.
N Buzzard, 11 Faversham Drive, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, BS24 9NZ.

I can help Spectrum owner with GAC, +2 loading problems, removing attribute clash + any basic programming problems, GAC, PAW and I also have an extensive knowledge of ZX BASIC. I can help fellow P B Mers on Hade Games 'Avalon'. Just send an SAE to: Matt Burke, 33 Brookhouse Hill, Fulwood, Sheffield, S10 3TB.

Adventure Quest, Beyond Zork, Infidel, Plundered Hearts, Starcross, Trinity, Castle Blacktar, Classic/Colossal Adventure, Dungeon Adventure, Emerald Isle, Gnome Ranger, Guild of Thieves, Hacker, H.H.G.T.G, Jinxter, Knight Orc, Leather Goddesses, Lords of Time, Mindshadow, Nord and Bert, The Pawn, Planetfall, Price of Magik, Red Moon, Return to Eden, Snowball, Wishbringer, Worm in Paradise

Phil Armstrong, 92 Dryden Road, Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear. NE9 5TX
Tel: (091) 4875639

The Colour of Magic Part 1 and some of Part 2.
John Morris, 130 Avondale Road, Shipley, West Yorkshire. Tel: 0274 586238 weekdays 3-6pm, weekends all day.

For tech help on Dungeon Master Tel 0734 780508, ask for Chris.

Amiga owner willing to swap hints & tips on the following games:- Great Giana Sisters, Leathernecks XR35, F18 Interceptor, Test Drive, Xenon, Firepower, Hollywood Strip Poker, Tetris, ECO, Vampire Empire, Soccer Supremo, Garrison I & II, Bubble bobble and over 100 more.
Mr S Lyle, 27 Stansted Close, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2TW. Tel: 0245 356641 after 8pm or weekends

Adventure Land, Colossal Adventure, Circus, Colditz, Greedy Gulch, Jewels of Babylon, Knights Quest, Magic Mountain, Pharaoh's Tomb, Eye of Bain, Planet of Death, Ship of Doom, Espionage Island, Hobbit, Invincible Island, Inca Curse, Ten Little Indians, Perseus and Andromeda, Lords of Time, SAE required with all requests for help.
Nirmal Singh, 104 Vansittart Road, London, E7 0AA.

Colossal Cave (original adventure), Guild of Thieves, Leather Goddesses of Phobos, The Pawn, Jinxter.
Clive J Mewse, 66 Billett Lane, Berkhamstead, Herts, HP4 1DR.

All aspects of BASIC especially adventures, debugging, compression and protection, simple machine code including RSXS, playtesting, poking. Please state level of understanding. Have got a CPC464, GT64, Multiface II+, DK 'tronics Speech rom. General Amstrad queries welcome but solutions not guaranteed.
Sean McManus, 226 Chertsey Rise, Stevenage, Herts. SG2 9JQ.

The Pawn and Knight Orc (part 1 and early part 2).
Shazad Ahmed, Tel: 01-340 9176 (4-10pm).

Dungeon Master
SAE to: Anthony Hopkins, 91 Springfield Avenue, Sandiacre Nottingham, NG10 5NA.

Commodore 64 help servcie, a new, free way 2 reviewing help on all games. Every arcade game is covered with pokes maps and tips. Old and new games send for information.
Mark Essen, 26 Thick Hollins Drive, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD7 3DL.

Jinxter, Pawn, Guild of Thieves, Leather Goddesses, Colossal Cave, Mr X. Clive Mewse, 438A Ewel Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, KT6 7EL.

The Pawn, Guild of Thieves, Jinxter, Corruption, The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, Hollywood Hijinx and I have 80+ points on Wishbringer.
Anil Tohani, 5 Orchard Avenue, Rainham, Essex RM13 9NY.

Any help on Ultima V appreciated. All letters answered. I have most character replies on disc in text files, almost complete dungeon plans, and will attempt to reciprocate on any info.
N.B.H Vickerstaff, 670 Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, Cleveland, TS16 0DP. Tel: 0642 781073

Help on Hitchhikers Guide to The Galaxy, Tasword, Qualitass, Tasprint, DMP2000. Ben Taylor, 5 Hope Street, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 9SB. Also help wanted on Stationfall.

C6464/128 Help Service, write to me with a list of games that you want help on and I will send it back post haste. Please send a SAE and remember it is for your arcade type games only. Write to Mark Essen, 26 Thick Hollins Drive, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD7 3DL. Hurry!

Fed up with a crap picture on your MCOI with Atari ST? SAE for help sheet to: C Parker, 14 Cross Lark, Pill, Bristol BS20 0JQ. Phone Pill 5242 after 6pm.

For technical help on all aspects of 68000 assembly language programming on the Atari ST, send sae. to Simon Jones, 267 Ansty Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 3FL.

Pawn, Planet Fall, Station Fall, Enchanter, Sorcerer, Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, Leather Goddesses of Phobos, Hollywood Hijinx, Zork 2, Part of Dungeon Master (11th level), Starcross. C Bass, 21 Third close, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9PW.

Any help on Dragons Lair Screen three. Any pokes. All on Amstrad tape or disc. I have completed T.Renegade, Frost Byte. 0789-840274.

S.D.C. 60 Boston Road, London, W7 3TR

Other branches – 309 Goldhawk Road, London, W12 8EZ

18 Market Square, Leighton Buzzard, Beds

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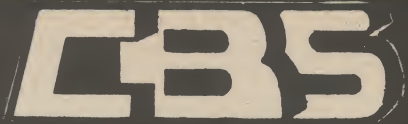
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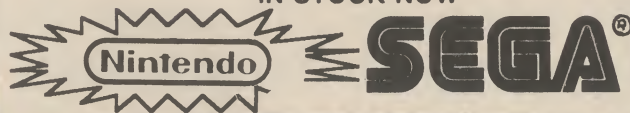
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Deluxe Print 2	45.95	---	---	Pro Soccer Sim	11.95	11.95	---	Eliminator	6.95	---	7.45	10.95	7.45	10.95	7.45	10.95	7.45		
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Deluxe Video	45.95	---	---	Purple Saturn Day	14.95	14.95	---	Espionage	5.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95		
Double Dragon	11.95	11.95	---	Quantum Paint	14.95	---	---	Europe Ablaze	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95		
Dragon Ninja	11.95	14.95	---	Rambo 3	11.95	14.95	---	Exploding Fist	5.00	---	6.95	8.95	6.95	8.95	6.95	8.95	6.95		
Driller	11.95	14.95	---	Reach For Stars	15.95	---	---	4x4 Off Road Racing	6.95	---	7.45	10.95	7.45	10.95	7.45	10.95	7.45		
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Elemental	11.95	11.95	---	Road Blasters	13.95	13.95	---	Fast Break	6.95	---	7.45	10.45	7.45	10.45	7.45	10.45	7.45		
Eliminator	13.95	13.95	---	Robocop	11.95	14.95	---	Fernandez Must Die	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95	9.95	6.95		
Elite	14.95	14.95	---	Rocket Ranger	19.95	19.95	---	Fish	9.95	9.95	9.95	9.95	9.95	9.95	9.95	9.95	9.95		
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Espionage	11.95	11.95	---	Sargon 3 Chess	14.95	14.95	---	Flight Ace	6.95	---	6.95	---	6.95	---	6.95	---	6.95		
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5 Star St	14.95	16.95	---	Scrabble Deluxe	13.95	13.95	---	Fox Fights Back	6.00										

THE BLITTER END...

HALE AND (P)ACE

Eeee! It's those fearsome East End faces Ron and Ron, giving a little friendly advice to mild-mannered ACE editor Graeme Kidd. (Won the Magazine of the Year award did we? Very nice. Still, you wanna be careful with those things, y'know. They do 'ave a way of overheating and burning places down. 'Specially if all those plastic cooling vanes get accidentally snapped off, that is.) Let's hope Graeme sees the wisdom of a Ron & Ron insurance policy a bit sharpish, readers: it looks like they've already wired his skull-cap up to a light socket. Even hats aren't sacrosanct as far as these fiends are concerned, it seems.

Fashion moralists will notice that crime almost certainly does pay: observe how smooth the Rons' dinner jackets look compared to Graeme's creased-but-honest effort. Quality pressing like that takes money. That or a quiet word about accident prevention round the local drycleaners.



Ron: Watch your mate die of then, Ron?
Ron: Amiga virus, Ron.
Ron: You don't die of Amiga virus, Ron!
Ron: You do if you give it to me, Ron.

OOPS CORNER

Back by popular demand, the ACE Oops section, the part of the magazine where we fearlessly point out what others fear to mention. And a prime crop we had last month – must have been something to do with Sauron's influence.

Anyone still having trouble with their free Aliens cassette may like to know that the people to send it to are ACE Returns, Spool Ltd, First Avenue, Dee-side Industrial Park, Nr Chester CH5 2NU. (If you sent it to us instead, never fear, Blitter passed it on to Spool on your behalf.)

Strange things also happened in reviewland,

too. *Mutant Zone* from Mastertronic was due to get an 856 rating not the paltry 624 that appeared in the budget bit, while over on the updates pages the *Pacmania* and *Speedball* updates got all topsy-turvy. Maybe those sex-crazed aliens from outer space are back again...

But dimmest boo-boo of them all cropped up in the Star Wars competition – the closing date appeared as 5th January, a generous two days after the magazine went on sale. Floods of entries still arrived, but if you were deterred from having a crack at collecting your very own Star Wars machine

WINNERS

BIKES AND BOXING GLOVES

Chris Ferre of Havant managed to get closest to the right spot on the punch bag in the ACE/Superior competition in the Xmas issue, so he'll soon be off to watch Barry McGuigan fight. The five runners-up who'll soon receive Mike Tyson videos are: Saleem Siddiqui, London. Niels Gudegast, Stockport. John Shaw, Duckinfield. Bradley Stew, Coventry and LLOYD Hardy, Woodhall Spa. As a consolation, these 15 people receive autographed copies of the *By Fair Means Or Foul* poster: Mark Little, Norwich. K Kirkland, Newport. Craig Davidson, Carlisle. Anthony Page, Bristol. B Pereira, Greenford. John Gurhy, Bamfurlong Nr Wigan. Robert Spaar, Switzerland. Lieven Gouaerts, Belgium. Greg Beard, Rochdale. M McSwiggan, Guemsey. Richard Abramson, Lowestoft. Ian Gough, Cardigan. P Degenaar, Newry N Ireland. Stephen Dawkins, Rutland. Jane France, Shrewsbury.

The lucky winner of the mountain bike in the ACE/Telecomsoft compeition was Nicholas Grassly of High Wycombe who knew the three Telecomsoft labels were: Rainbird, Firebird and Silverbird and that St Nicholas is the patron saint of children (amongst others). He also knew The Goodies recorded 'Father Christmas Do Not Touch Me', that Christmas trees are usually Norwegian Spruce, and the first ghost to visit Scrooge was Jacob Marley. Alan Bate-man of Bath collected the second prize of a hand-held colour TV. The 10 runners-up who receive personal stereos are: Daniel Curtis, Newton Abbot. Richard Davis, London. R Gibbons, Holmes Chapel. A Lateo, Slough. Edwin Birch, Dallington. S Landymore, Towcester. Mark Gaches, High Wycombe. H Kapp, Scunthorpe. Patrick Stanley, Southampton. J Trievnor, Bognor Regis. These 10 people managed to scoop themselves completely brilliant Telecomsoft T-Shirts: Kolin Robertson, Long Sutton. James Barnaby, Bristol. Stephan Wills, Twickenham. Peter Stedman, London. Paul Joseph, Croydon. Jon Sykes, Nottingham. John Pearce, Cheshunt. C Parker, Bristol. Bradley Stew, Coventry (Look at that! He enters both competitions and manages to win something in BOTH! The lucky blighter!). James Merrifield, Devizes. So there you go.

because you thought it was too late, take heart. The closing date for entries has now, henceforward and forthwith been extended. You have got until 28th February 1989 to get an entry in. ●

OUR THANKS to

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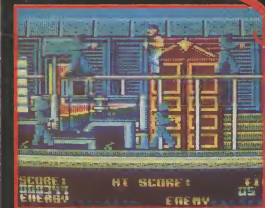
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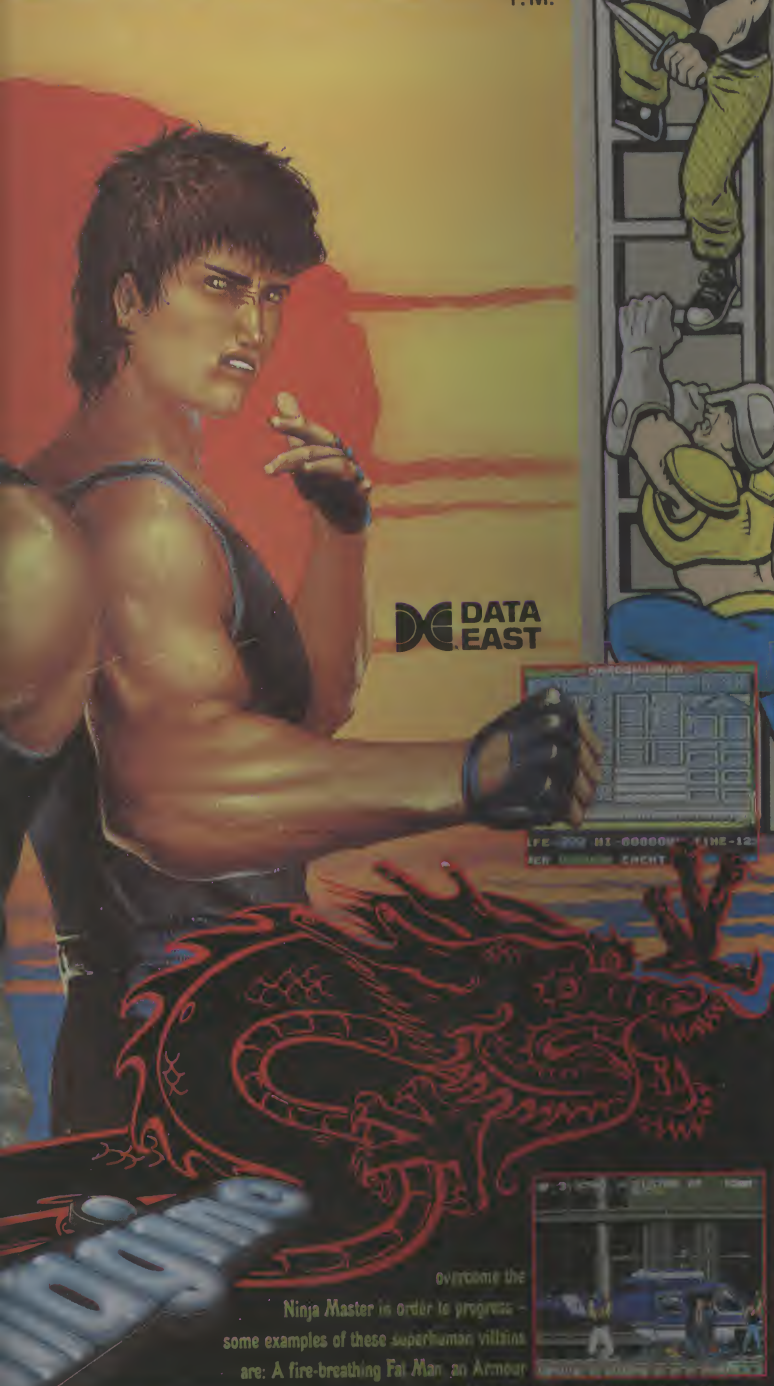
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